



9 April 2011

### Repeal of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell”

1. All of us will soon receive training on the repeal of the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” law. There are two things you should know about the process of implementing the repeal and about my expectations regarding implementation.
2. First, as you know, legislation that will lead to the eventual repeal of the law commonly referred to as “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,” was signed into law in December 2010. The legislation provides that repeal will take effect 60 days after the Commander-in-Chief, the Secretary of Defense, and the Chairman of the JCS certify that the Armed Forces are prepared to implement this repeal while still maintaining standards of military readiness, military effectiveness, unit cohesion, and recruiting and retention of the Armed Forces. As always, sexual orientation remains a personal and private matter.
3. Second, training is required. Structured in three-tiers, the training emphasizes leadership, professionalism, discipline, and respect. Tier one training includes policy makers, chaplains, lawyers, and counselors. Commanders, senior NCOs and civilians will be trained in tier two. Every service member will be trained under tier three. So let me be clear about my expectations.
4. Expectation #1: Our command policy is to treat every soldier, sailor, airman, Marine and civilian with respect and dignity. I still maintain zero tolerance for harassment, violence or discrimination against *any* Service member, for *any* reason. All of us must be leaders, and the way we behave will set an example for our battle buddies, shipmates, wingmen, fellow Marines and civil servants.
5. Expectation #2: Fairness and equality for all is mandatory. Sexual orientation has no bearing on how Service members are treated, assigned, assisted, trained or evaluated. Our most important priority in this command is combat readiness – our warriors are ready, our families are ready, our units are cohesive and effective. We maintain our readiness to perform the combat mission we share with our ROK allies every day and every night. Treating one another with fairness, equality, dignity and respect will keep us combat ready.

We Go Together!

*Walter L. Sharp*  
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**FREEDOM’S FRONTIER!**